

# U. S. CHAMBER PLEDGES AID TO DEFEND NATION

Submarine Crisis Stirs  
Convention of Business  
Men at Capital

## BAKER AND WOOD TOO BUSY TO SPEAK

Industries Must Be Organized, Delegates Are Told

(From the Tribune Bureau)

Washington, Feb. 1.—The gravity of the international situation forced itself upon the attention of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States convention to-day, when the delegates learned that Secretary of War Baker and General Leonard Wood, who were to have addressed them, had been prevented, as President Rhett said, "by exigencies of the situation" from being present. The morning session was devoted wholly to national defense problems, and announcement that Secretary Baker and General Wood would speak on the subject drew a throng that packed the large assembly hall.

Howard E. Coffin, of the Naval Consulting Board, addressing the Chamber on national defense, presented startling facts about the military unpreparedness of the United States. He declared that any one who believed that the United States was prepared because Congress had voted for battleships and a larger army should consult a brain specialist. He spoke sarcastically of "how we advertise to the world our extremely businesslike plans for national defense."

Mr. Coffin presented figures which he had sought neither to be recorded nor published. "That nation is most hopeless which most sincerely deceives itself," declared Mr. Coffin as he explained easy possibilities of landing troops on American shores by foreign powers.

**Auto Industry Best Prepared**

Speaking of industrial preparedness, Mr. Coffin said: "The organized industry is the best organized industry in the country. After a declaration of war not more than 15 per cent of the industry would keep on with its regular work. All other industries would be affected in about the same proportion."

Close observance of the experience in foreign countries has shown us the vital necessity for a rearrangement in all industries. Wars are waged not only over territory, but a nation, every man, woman and child is affected. Every sine of transportation, industry and finance must be harnessed for the common good."

"It is upon organized industry that we in the United States must base any and all our plans for military defense, and in the event of trouble with any of the first class powers, between 80 and 90 per cent of our industries would be centred upon the making of supplies for our government."

"From one to two years of time and effort are needed to perfect any large manufacturing establishment to change over from its usual commercial peacetime work to the supplying of war materials. After two years of diligent work twenty thousand inventories are now on file in the Council of National Defense."

"Munitions must become our one great national undertaking, and we must make our plans accordingly. Every manufacturer owes it to himself, to his stockholders and to his workers to insure against a prolonged shutdown of his plant."

**All Interests Common in War**

The ability to swing quickly from the commodities of peaceful commerce to the production of war materials is the greatest insurance against government control, against disruption of organization and against months of community chaos which cannot but spell physical suffering and privation to labor and money loss to the business itself. The interests of government, capital and labor are common interests in war, and it is only through the arrangement of production, profits, wages and relations that the national welfare may be safeguarded."

The report of the committee on national defense, which was adopted, urged the National Chamber to go on record to "pledge the unqualified support of the business interests represented within its membership to the Council of National Defense and to the active consummation of its plans."

**Weather Report**

Official Records and Forecasts for Next Twenty-four Hours

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